

Objective: Adolescent sexual activity: By 2010, 30 percent or less of Wisconsin high school youth will report ever having had sexual intercourse.

Additional Resources

Alford, S. Science and Success: Sex education and other programs that work to prevent teen pregnancy, HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections; 2003. Advocates for Youth, Washington, DC. Available online at: www.advocatesforyouth.org/programsthatwork/.

The publisher of this report "is dedicated to creating programs and advocating for policies that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual and reproductive health." The principal limitation of this report is that it was not peer-reviewed. A second limitation is that potential partners to undertake the intervention were not discussed in the report, therefore, potential partners were determined based on the program descriptions.

This report is an outstanding resource. It reviews 19 programs whose results were published in peer-reviewed journals. In order to be included in the report, articles had to meet the following additional criteria: (1) Use of experimental or quasi-experimental evaluation design (with treatment and control/comparison groups); (2) Inclusion of at least 100 young people in treatment and control/comparison groups.

Of the 19 programs, 16 included information about abstinence and contraception within the context of sex education; 12 programs demonstrated a statistically significant delay in the initiation of sex among program adolescents (compared to control youth); 8 programs had statistically significant results in reducing teen pregnancy, HIV or other sexually transmitted infections (STI); and 7 had statistically significant impacts on reducing teenage pregnancy among program participants.

The report has two tables that present information in easy-to-read formats. The first table lists the programs and their impact on adolescents' risk for pregnancy, HIV and STIs. Behavioral outcomes include: delayed initiation of sex, reduced frequency of sex, reduced number of sex partners, reduced incidence of unprotected sex, increased use of condoms; and increased use of contraception. Health impacts include: decreased incidence of STIs and decreased number or rate of teen pregnancy/births. The second table lists the programs, their settings and populations served. Settings include urban, suburban and rural; ages include pre-school, elementary, junior high, and senior high. Populations include white, African American, Hispanic, and Asian.